

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on June 28, 1971 at the Gild Hall with Chairman, William Press presiding.

Before convening the meeting, Mr. Press introduced George Emerson and Frank Baker of Rollins Cable T. V. The Rollins company had approached the Trustees to permit them to put Cable T.V in Arden. The Trustees wanted the residents to hear the details before any action was taken. The wires will be placed on existing Diamond State telephone poles and small cable will go into the homes.

It will enable subscribers to select several stations. A local channel, Wilmington 5 will present public service type broadcasting of a local nature. The cost is funded by subscribers and a small percentage is paid to the town for each subscriber.

The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. Correspondence thanking the Village of Arden for its appreciation of the help given by Governor Peterson and William Conner in getting police coverage was received from them. The family of Rosalie Schorr acknowledge our expression of sympathy, the ACRA committee thanked the town for the contribution toward their program and a letter was received from Earl Broadbent suggesting that bicycle paths be set up in the woods to keep the bicycles off the Arden roads.

The financial report of the Trustees was presented by Cy Liberman and a copy is on file. Mr. Liberman reported that land rent delinquent for 1971 is \$10,500. for 1970 \$1900 and for 1969 \$765. The Trustees have authorized that legal action be taken against on leaseholder for rents due for three years.

The county tax rate has risen to .85 for \$100 of assessed valuation. This is the same rate as unincorporated towns. A meeting was held with Trustees, Board of Assessors and county officials to discuss this tax rate. A technicality was uncovered which could give Arden a significant reduction in County taxes if we could present documentation of services that the Town has rendered to its residents from as early as January 1, 1967. It is necessary to prove that the incorporated village is spending the funds and not the Trustees.

The Trustees have asked the Community Planning committee to draw up regulations concerning the burials in the Memorial Garden. This will include who may be buried there, type of gravestone, location of grave, etc.

The proposed bridge over Naamans Creek on Marsh Road would have required that the Trustees sell five feet of property to the Highway Department. The Trustees refused to do this because the previous town assembly had opposed the plans for increased drainage in Naamans Creek at the expense of the natural terrain. The Highway engineers redesigned the bridge so that they would not need any Arden property; therefore, a new bridge will be built.

Mr. Liberman introduced Mr. Ultis Karins, County Engineer, who presented the modified plans for Naamans Creek watershed. About 29 homes that had been built in the flood plain get flooded during heavy rains. The engineers propose to widen the existing creek and deepen the channel. At the present time they have erected retaining dikes and plan some holding basins. They will remove the rest of the dam at the old swimming pool, straighten the creek on the Ardentown side where it takes a wide bend. They hope to retain as many trees as possible and only remove a few rocks from the stream bed. The proposed plan will cost \$1, 137,000. and will come from the county's capital improvement fund.

Mr. Karins was asked why the county did not purchase the houses rather than undertake such an expensive project to protect them.



Mr. Pete Hughes, county representative from this district, stated that he has done all he can to preserve the creek. A moratorium on development from the Pennsylvania line to the B. & O. Railroad tracks has been made until the problem of building on a flood plain has been worked out.

Mr. Karins thought that the volume of water flowing down the creek would increase, but he did not think that erosion along the Arden creek banks would be any greater. They are not planning to construct concrete walls to hold the floods.

On motion the report of the Trustees was accepted.

The report of the Board of Assessors for the assesment for year beginning March 25, 1972 was presented by Michael Curtis. Land was valued at \$3,300 for 1/4 acre. All other lots were valued at \$3,300 for first 1/4 acre up to \$11,000 for a full acre, with areas above on acre being valued at \$11,000 per acre. The percentage rental value was 6.5%. The full rental value of Arden land has been set at \$19.70 per 1000 sq. ft. for that portion up to 1/4 acre and \$15.32 per 1000 sq. ft. for that portion in excess of 1/4 acre. The Factor percentage surcharges have been reviewed and retained. It is estimated that the above will generate about \$2,200 additional income for Arden.

Michael Curtis presented his proposed assesment based on the value for which Arden leaseholds can be rented. He found the value to be \$38.75/1000 square feet for the first 10,000 sq. feet with one dwelling and \$17.42/1000 sq. ft. for everything in excess of 10,000 sq. feet which has no dwelling. There are two values for this reason. You must have 10,000 sq. ft to support a house, but anything in excess of that may not have have a house on it,; therefore, it's potential value is less.

Shaul Gladstone felt the value of 1/4 acre should be \$3600 and value of an acre should be \$12,000 per acre. The Interest rate should be 6 or 6 1/4%. The net result of his suggestion would be 7% increase in assesment of Arden leases. Deborah Colgan was basically in agreement with Shaul Gladstone.

A Motion was made and passed to accept the report of the Board of Assessors.

The Auditing Committee reported it was not able to complete the audit in time for this meeting; therefore, it will report at the September meeting.

No report from the Budget Committee.

Civic Committee report from Reese Davis: Road maintenance is the major concern of the committee. Recent minor patching and repaving cost about \$5000, but most of our roads exhibit some degree of surface cracking and must be sealed. At the present time including Municipal Street Aid Fund we have approximately \$13,000. per year available for all road, drainage, maintenance and repair. At the present time we are faced with road maintenance costing from \$40,000 to \$50,000. Many of the roads are badly in need of drainage gutters.

A Tot Lot at the north end of the Green has been nearly completed. This was 50% financed by a federal grant for recreational facilities. The woods seem to be in good shape. The Civic Committee did met with Cosmos Guild and accepted some of their offers to clean up the Greens, etc. The New Castle County Housing Code covers the Village of Arden and the Civic Committee requested inspection of an Arden property. The Civic Committee has not yet developed its own procedures for dealing with the code, but when this is done; the residents will be informed by a mailing which will contain appropriate excerpts from the Code.

The committees report on motion was accepted.



The Community Planning Committee report was presented by Frank Akutowicz and other members of the committee. Mr. Karins had reported on Naaman's Creek drainage project and Cy Liberman had outlined the Marsh Road bridge reconstruction. The committee reported that Arden residents are eligible for burial in the cemetery and that grave stone must be flush with the ground. All residents are exhorted to keep shrubbery along roads, paths and corners under control. All outside burning is illegal after September 19 of 1971; therefore, residents must arrange for removal of leaves or compost them on own property.

Cy Liberman says that an attempt is being made to have Arden listed with the National Registry of Historic Places. This would get Arden some recognition and would strengthen our hand with Highway department in widening of Harvey Road. A committee is working on this this and will report in September.

The State Highway department would be acceptable to negotiation if we want improvements along Harvey Road.

The report of the committee on motion accepted.

Registration Committee reported 407 eligible voters with 28 of them the 18 to 21 year olds. The Town Charter was amended by House bill 26 to per 18 year olds to vote. Arden was the first community in Delaware to have its charter amended to allow this vote.

Advisory Committee Chairman, Aaron Hamburger, reported that Mrs. Charlotte Shedd has withdrawn her proposed Ordinance 6-condition of Arden leaseholds-on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee because the New Castle County Housing Code outlines that all exterior properties must be clean, free of rubbish and garbage. No one is permitted to store more than one motor vehicle for more than one month and refrigerators, stoves, building materials may not be stored on the property. The committee's report on motion was accepted.

Safety Committee report was presented by Richard Lynch, Chairman and Shaul Gladstone, Police Liaison officer. Martin Levy will act as liaison with the Civic Committee and Ted Southwell is concerting his efforts to implement traffic signs and parking ordinance already passed by the Town Assembly. The committee met with the Civic Committee to discuss the abuse of the greens and woods. The general conclusion that the citizens must promptly report any illegal activities so that the police can act on them. It is hoped that when the new signs are erected, some of the problems of parking, riding on the greens, etc. will be alleviated.

Mr. Gladstone reported that Sgt. James Szymanski is direct supervisor of the Arden-Bellefonte patrol operation. Sgt. Clarke Jester is the Youth Aid Officer. Both of these officer have been briefed on areas and hours that the Safety Committee consider most troublesome. Part of the agreement with the State Police was to the effect that , while the Safety Committee would offer suggestions, it would not attempt to supervise or interfere with officers on duty. The residents of the Village should put their suggestions or criticisms in writing and send them to the Safety Committee.

It was the recommendation of Shaul Gladstone the William C. Press, Chairman of the Town Assembly and signatory to the present agreement with the State Police, immediately write requesting renewal of the agreement whcih expires August 3, 1971. It would seem to be desirable to have an evergreen paragraph which would automatically renew every yearl unles either party gave 30 day cancellation notice priort to termination date. It was also recommended that the request for renewal express the Village's satisfaction and thanks for the coverage received. The report on motion was accepted.



Arden Resources Committee report by Leon Tanzer. Seven proposals have been turned over to Aaron Hamburger for his perusal before action by the Advisory Committee. Arden Club is becoming more responsive to communities needs. State Housing Bill S. B. 66 has passed the senate. When this bill becomes law, it will be studied. Leon Tanzer and Erhard Hoegger met to exchange information and material pertinent to both communities. Mr. Hoegger feels that we should be making plans to procure the Arden School if the Mt. Pleasant School District ever abandons the school.

On motion his report was accepted.

Hugh Robert reported that the Committee on Assistance Programs for Community Development has not met since March Town Assembly, but the committee is following several bills through legislature to find out whether Arden can receive more financial assistance.

No report from the Archives Committee of the Brandywine Council of Civic Associations.

Report of the Committee to Study Harvey Road was circulated by the Chairman, Temma Tanzer.

I- Average Daily Traffic-since opening of I-95 6000

Average accidents per year 13, deaths per year 1 and injuries 4.

II-Hazards on Harvey road are erosion of ditches, shoulders, etc. lack of area for pedestrians and blind curves and hills.

Recommendation: Pave full 30ft. right of way, including installing rolled gutters and moderating curves and hills wherever possible

Specific hazards: Hillside road intersections obstructed by shrubbery and mail box. Recommendations: cut shrubbery and remove mail box to another location. Cut privet hedge on North side of Harvey near Hillside.

Little Lane vision obstructed. Recommendation if to make East Fork one-way North and west fork, one-way South

Orleans Road(South side): Inability to get any vision of traffic from East and poor vision from West. Major recommendation is get Traffic signal with tripper on Orleans and pedestrian push button.

Immediate action to remove hydrangea hedge on William West property. Suggest that hedge be provided lease-holder that is set back to existing privet hedge line.

Stile Path should have macadam path on north side of Harvey to align with entrance of path on South side of Harvey.

Suggest Lower Lane be made one-way North and Sweep to be made one-way South. Meadow Lane suggest that mail box be moved.

William West said that he did not want a privet hedge, but he was willing to have the hydrangea hedge moved back.

Safety Committee is asked to check speed laws on Harvey Road and start a vigorous program to enforce the speed limits on Harvey Road.

The Safety Committee was asked to see what could be done about enforcing one-way traffic on Sherwood Road.

A motion was made that the Civic Committee study the feasibility of blocking Sherwood Road where it exits on Marsh making it a no exit road.

Some people blocking the road would be dangerous, because it could not be used by emergency equipment. A vote was taken and the motion passed 30 ayes to 19 nays.



There was a discussion of the condition cause around town by parking along the sides of the roads. A motion was made and passed that the Community Planning Committee study the feasibility of enforcing off the street parking by all residents of the community.

A motion was made and seconded that the recommendations of the Harvey Road Committee be implemented by the appropriate Town Committee and that these committees should attempt to carry out the substance of the recommendations.

A motion was made to table the report until a subsequent meeting. The motion to table was defeated by 20 ayes and 27 nays.

It was suggested that the motion to implement the report of the Harvey Road committee be amended to exclude the recommendation the improvement of Harvey Road.

The motioner and seconder of the motion withdrew it in favor of the following motion:

That the recommendations of the special committee to study Harvey Road be implemented in substance by the appropriate committees with the exception of recommendation to pave full 30foot right-of-way on Harvey Road.

Motion carried with a vote of 32 ayes and no nays.

A motion was made and passed that a special committee be appointed to study repaving of Harvey with the suggestion that the same committee be used with supplemental special technical help.

Some residents thought it was very foolish to open the problems of Harvey Road again. Perhaps we could ask that the road be improved, but not widened. We must contact Ardentown to see how they feel about the recommendation of the Harvey Road committee.

A motion was made and passed to ask the Trustees to negotiate with Rollins Cable TV to install it in Arden. Arden will get 2% of the total income.

A motion was made and passed that the Town Assembly approve the move to have Arden put on the National Registry of Historic Places.

A motion was made and passed that the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden go on record as opposing the plans for drainage of Naamans Creek.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Morley*  
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Secretary of the Town Assembly